

DAL'S RATIFICATION OF IRISH TREATY PREDICTED

Debate Probably Will Close at End of Today's Session—De Valera Suggests an Evening Session if Necessary "to Finish It"—Character of Applause and Remarks of Speakers at Session Yesterday Indicated Feeling Favorable to Ratification—Miss MacSwiney Was Vitriolic in Opposition and Intimated Rebellion Against the Free State.

Dublin, Dec. 21. (By the A. P.)—The possibility of concluding the debate on the Irish treaty and reaching a decision by tomorrow night was indicated by Eamon De Valera at the close of today's sessions when he suggested that, if the discussions were not concluded tomorrow afternoon, an evening session should be held to finish it.

Arthur Griffith, criticizing Mary MacSwiney for speaking so long for her address occupied two hours and forty minutes, thought that fifteen minutes would be sufficient for the remainder of the speakers to express their views. One deputy expressed the opinion that no more speeches were required, and in this he appeared to voice the impatience of many members to vote without further delay.

Applause Indicates Acceptance.

For the first time there was a disposition tonight on the part of certain members of the Dail Eireann supporting the treaty to speak definitely that it will be ratified. In order to obtain the applause today and the incidental remarks of the speakers tended to support this position.

Near the close of her long speech, Miss MacSwiney not only said that she might never have another opportunity to address that assembly, unless Ireland became a republic, but marked out her future policy and that of the republican party of rebellion against the free state. She has had opportunities of ascertaining the views of the members of the Dail Eireann, and these references were taken as pointing to her considered opinion as to the probable result in the Sinn Fein parliament.

George Gavan Duffy and other speakers for ratification seemed to take it for granted that the Dail Eireann would approve the treaty, but despite this indication of confidence in the Dail Eireann, the speaker continued apprehensive tonight regarding the outcome.

There were several references today, as yesterday, to a plebiscite, whatever the Dail decision was, in order to obtain a free expression from the electorate on the issue, and thus "clear the air."

Friction Between Opposing Sides.

Much friction between the opposing sides was in evidence. Interchanges in the morning session between Mr. De Valera and Mr. Griffith were marked by acerbity, creating a tense atmosphere. The speech of William Cosgrave in the afternoon, however, went far towards restoring mutual friendliness.

Cosgrave, one of the most active and popular members of the Dail Eireann, who is in close touch with municipal and county organizations throughout Ireland and is regarded as knowing well the trend of public sentiment, strongly advocated ratification of the treaty; he made it plain that a great majority of the Irish people favored acceptance. His speech was all the more effective for being so direct and unadorned. He was not content even with the men at whom they were directed, "Charles Burke, minister of defense, for example, laughed heartily at Cosgrave's description of him as a man who was not good for anything else." He followed the line adopted by Michael Collins and welcomed the treaty chiefly for its likely beneficial effects on Irish social and economic conditions.

Cosgrave Suggests Plebiscite.

Mr. Cosgrave, who is really the principal administrator of Dublin City, spoke with much pathos of the misery of 30,000 Dublin families, each of whom is in one room, and suggested the possibility of leaving the decision to the Irish people, who had the best right to determine their own future.

The meeting today was notable for speeches by George Gavan Duffy and William Duggan, two of the delegates who signed the treaty. Though they spoke from different angles, Mr. Duffy regretting the treaty and Mr. Duggan raising its possibilities, they agreed in strongly recommending the Dail Eireann to ratify it. They differed materially on the question of the alleged desire applied to obtain Robert C. Barrett's signature, which was in his speech Monday that signature was compelled by a threat of immediate war and Duggan denying coercion.

Miss MacSwiney Vitriolic.

Mary MacSwiney spoke passionately for a republic, denying repeatedly that the idea of a republic was a result of the treaty. She said that the treaty was a betrayal of the Irish people and that she would stand for a republic. She asked for a plebiscite of the women on the question of a republic, and that Ireland would continue to stand for it, even if the men turned their backs on it.

"Ireland should choose extermination before dishonor," she exclaimed.

Miss MacSwiney attacked Premier Lloyd George, the treaty and the press, including the American press, which she said was unfaithful to the republican cause. She bitterly resented the action of a number of the supporters of the treaty who fled out of the room when she began to speak.

PROCEEDINGS AT MEETING OF DAIL EIREANN YESTERDAY

Dublin, Dec. 21. (By the A. P.)—Opposition to referring the Anglo-Irish treaty to the Irish electorate was voiced by George Gavan Duffy, one of the negotiators, in an argument for ratification of the pact delivered in this morning's session of the Dail Eireann. He declared that opposing this course because of the high feeling a plebiscite campaign would create. Such a campaign, he asserted, would send the country from one end to the other. He said he saw no alternative to the treaty and spoke as if he were confidently expecting its ratification by the Dail.

The members of the Dail listened with intense interest while he and Eamon J. Duggan, also a member of the London delegation, ardently recommended ratification of the treaty.

Mr. Duffy declared he recommended ratification reluctantly because he argued that the signature of the Irish delegates had been forced upon them. Mr. Duggan, on the other hand, warmly declared that he had been coerced.

France is to Present Naval Plans Today

Great Britain May Present Plea For Total Abolition of Submarine.

Washington, Dec. 21. (By the A. P.)—The formal negotiations of the arms conference were at a standstill today, but groups of delegates continued personal consultations which appeared to strengthen the general confidence of an early solution of all the points remaining at issue.

France is to present her estimates for auxiliary vessels at tomorrow's meeting of the naval committee, and although she is expected to ask for a submarine and cruiser strength out of proportion to the capital ship ratio fixed for her, no one appears to regard the prospect of adjusting her claims as a difficult one. It is not understood to be regarded as essential by conference leaders that the capital ship ratio be applied rigidly down the line through the various classes of smaller vessels.

The Japanese, who are awaiting for further instructions from Tokyo regarding the terms of withdrawal from the Tsinan-Tsinfu railway, expressed the opinion that the temporary halt in formal exchanges with the Chinese did not constitute a serious deadlock. The Chinese seemed inclined to fear that the Shantung discussions had encountered a serious obstacle.

The difference in view revealed yesterday between President Harding and members of the American delegation relating to the application of the four-power Pacific treaty to principal islands of the Japanese empire, furnished the chief topic of personal conversation among many of the foreign plenipotentiaries who privately expressed themselves as unable to understand how such a situation had developed.

No further explanation was forthcoming from the White House or from members of the American group in the conference, but it was declared in state department circles that there existed no question of the attitude of the American government. The interpretation of the American delegation, it was said, holding that the treaty does apply to the major Japanese islands, was stronger than the American view. The treaty's opponents in the senate stood advantage of the bill in conference developments to launch another attack which centered about yesterday's White House statement.

Read, democrat, Missouri, declared in a recent speech that the difference of view between the president and the American plenipotentiaries was new proof that the treaty had been drafted "to be a device." The whole incident, he asserted, betrayed a policy of "twisting and turning" cloaked behind a curtain of secret diplomacy.

An official report to close the Scollady ship of the Missouri Pacific railroad was received from St. Louis. Approximately 1,400 men are affected.

Closing of small railroad stations for purposes of economy will be opposed by the Massachusetts state department of public utilities.

The expected arrival of big shipments of Christmas trees from Maine promise to assure a plentiful supply of holiday greens for greater Boston.

Rev. Dr. James Ballantyne, formerly moderator of the Canadian Presbyterian general assembly, died suddenly at his home in Toronto. He was 64 years old.

An express train from Paris, which left last night on the Trieste-Rome express on the bridge crossing the Pave at San Dona, relief trains have been sent to the wreck, but details are lacking.

A woman, 50 years of age, who had just made a trip by water and rail from Boston to Jacksonville, Florida, and back, has been found to be suffering from typhus.

Excitement prevailed at the corner of Chaucery and Essex streets, Boston when a charge of dynamite, used to demolish a piece of concrete in building operations, went the wrong way and threw rocks and stones in all directions.

Major General Clarence R. Edwards, commanding the First Army Corps area, will act as a post-Christmas Santa Claus on December 27 when he will confer decorations awarded by this and other military branches to the public in various parts of New England.

Peoples' Bank and Realty Savings & Trust Co., an open letter to the United States, placed in the hands of the State Examiner, due to heavy withdrawals of deposits. During the last few months five banks suspended in Savannah.

Giuseppe Parisi, arrested in Springfield soon after Carlo Simeonelli, local Italian teacher had been shot in his automobile, was arraigned in district court on a charge of murder and was held without bail for preliminary hearing December 27.

Fire damage that may exceed \$50,000 was done to a store in a Main street business block in Springfield and seriously threatened the Hotel Hawkins, occupying the same building, whose 75 guests made their escape with little difficulty.

A scheme to defraud in stock and bond transactions by means of the United States mails said to involve millions of dollars, is alleged in indictment returned in the federal court against Hollister, White & Company, Inc., investment underwriters, of Boston.

A gain of 57 ballots by John R. Murphy in the counting of the ballots cast in the Boston municipal election last week announced at the close of Tuesday's count, slumped to 34 late Wednesday. About three fourths of the recount has been completed.

A large sign reading "Federal Agents—Stop" and further down the road a pavement of heavy plants, studded with spikes, is a device which Herbert H. Hoyer, chief field deputy of Maine's prohibition enforcement agency, has proposed for catching bootleggers running by motor.

With the letter to Mr. Norman, the committee counsel enclosed a copy of his demands for reforms in labor unions given out yesterday and invited his comment on them.

BRITISH DELEGATION HAS CANCELED RESERVATIONS

Washington, Dec. 21. (By the A. P.)—The British delegation today cancelled reservations it had made on a steamer sailing from New York on December 19. It was stated members of the delegation think there is little chance of their being able to leave before the middle of January.

BRIEF TELEGRAMS

Boston & Maine railroad posted announcement that wages in all departments would be cut.

Ten per cent. bonus will be paid American employees of the Baltic-American Lines in New York.

An outbreak in Belfast was ended by troops who arrested thirty persons and seized huge quantities of ammunition.

J. C. Ropp was appointed assistant commissioner of the national budget by Charles G. Dawes.

Thomas Findley, president of the Massey Harris Co., of Toronto, died at his home in Toronto.

Fifth avenue, New York, is in the midst of the annual Christmas shopping carnival it has ever known.

The death of Cardinal Francis Mary Rovere De Cabrera, bishop of Montpellier, France, was announced.

American Malt & Grain Co., liquidating trustee, sold the Buffalo plant for \$500,000 to a Minneapolis milling concern.

Idle freight cars on Dec. 8 totaled 328,158, compared with 455,376 on Dec. 1, an increase of 127,218 cars, according to the American Railway association.

A messenger of the Chateau Trust Co. of St. Louis was held up by three bandits, who escaped with a satchel containing \$3,180.

George Rogers, an escaped convict is being held by the Chicago police in connection with the million dollar mail robbery in Toledo.

Under a ruling by the Interstate Commerce Commission many big rail men must give up their directorships on competing roads.

It was announced at the White House that President Harding will make public next Friday a list of Christmas pardons.

Sir James McKechnie, of Vickers, Ltd., of Barrow, England, arrived on the Cunard liner Scythia to shipbuilding conditions in the United States.

Custom officers seized the tramp ship Janway, which arrived at New York from Baltimore. It is alleged she had aboard 250 drums of alcohol.

Representative Volk of New York, introduced a bill in the house to provide soldiers' bonus, funds to be obtained by a sales tax.

Notices were posted by Philadelphia & Reading Railway Co. announcing wage cuts of maintenance of way employees ranging from 5 to 15 cents an hour.

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Three Women Killed By Gas Explosion

Which Wrecked a Women's Furnishings Store in Columbus—Forty Injured.

Columbus, Ohio, Dec. 21.—Twelve persons are known to be dead and an unknown number injured as the result of a gas explosion which wrecked a woman's furnishings store in the downtown district here late today. Forty injured have been taken to hospitals and rescuers declared there were a number more in the wreckage.

The store was crowded with holiday shoppers at the time of the explosion, which wrecked the building and tore up a portion of the adjacent street. Gas escaping from mains in the street took fire and hindered rescue work. The cause of the explosion was not known.

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Every available ambulance in the city was kept busy for some time hauling the injured to nearby hospitals. These hospitals reported tonight that several of the injured may die.

The explosion occurred shortly after 5 o'clock while the store was filled with shoppers and a large crowd of people were crowded. The front of the three-story building was demolished and the sidewalk in front destroyed.

Thirty-four injured are being cared for at four local hospitals.

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EGOTIC PROBLEMS FOR ALLIED SUPREME COUNCIL

A Meeting Has Been Called For the Second Week in January at Cannes, Southern France—It is Understood That German Reparations Will Be Discussed—Premiers Briand and Lloyd George Disagree in Opinions on Germany's Ability to Make Payments—The Premiers Have Pledged Secrecy Concerning Their London Conversations.

London, Dec. 21. (By the A. P.)—Decision was reached today to call a meeting of the allied supreme council at Cannes, Southern France, during the second week of January. It is understood that German reparations and other European economic problems will be discussed.

question of international finance and exchange, which is linked up with the question of reparations.

Mr. Briand said that the present conversations between Mr. Lloyd George and himself real progress had been made. Several points had been smoothed out with complete cordiality and "the was very much satisfied."

George Harvey, the American ambassador, was a caller at Mr. Briand's home this afternoon. He remained for half an hour with the French premier. Mr. Harvey declined to answer inquiries regarding the object of his visit, but Mr. Briand afterwards said that the American ambassador had paid him a purely formal call to thank him in behalf of the American government for his letter regarding capital ships.

Mr. Briand declined to be drawn into a discussion of the subject of secondary naval vessels. He dismissed such inquiries by saying that the question still was under discussion, and added, "this is not the Washington conference."

Mr. Briand reminded the newspaper men that nothing could definitely be set by the present conversations which, being purely preliminary, had no binding force on the other parties concerned in the question—namely Belgium and Italy. He added that a conference of the ambassadors of the countries concerned would meet within a few days in Paris, and arrangements for the meeting had been concluded today with Lord Curzon, the British foreign secretary.

Mr. Briand definitely announced that he would depart for Paris at one o'clock tomorrow afternoon. He had another talk with Mr. Lloyd George tonight and still held his final conversations with the British premier in the forenoon of tomorrow.

Regarding the conversations between Louis P. Loucheur, the French minister of liberated regions, and Dr. Walther Rathenau, the German financial expert, it is stated that the German expert, in his latest visit to Paris, had discussed the most formalities in the hotel corridor. The German delegates have refused all information on the subject.

The meeting will be held the first week in January. It will be preceded by a meeting of the council of ambassadors within a few days at Paris for arranging the details of the Cannes meeting, which is scheduled for early in January.

A pledge to secrecy was entered into between the two premiers regarding their London conversations, but the supreme council evidently has been called to order by the governments of the treaty of Versailles or to deliberate on the advisability of calling a still darker international conference with a view to dealing with the whole subject.

This task has proved more difficult than was expected, and it is stated that there is as yet a lack of unanimity on the subject.

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